

JUN 08 1998

THE BAPTIST

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

#BXNFMXY CARRIER ROUTE 39
#000027106044# 005-DTM 6-04
SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL 50000
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

JUNE 4, 1998

VOL. 122

No. 18

Crisis leader undergoes own trial by fire

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Brooks Faulkner has learned the hard way that personal suffering can make people more sensitive to others' pain.

Trim and youthful for his 62 years, Faulkner is known by his colleagues at the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) as the leader of a personal development program for church staff people, LeaderCare, which includes crisis help.

He is athletic, a longtime patron of the Downtown Nashville YMCA who often plays basketball as a part of his health regime. Typically he has worked almost a full business day by the time he goes to the Y during lunch.

Less than a year ago the tables turned when he was forced to be the receiver instead of the giver of help.

In his hotel room in Dallas during the 1997 SBC annual meeting, Faulkner became convinced he had food poisoning. Weak and unable to attend sessions of the convention, he agreed at the urging of colleagues to return to Nashville.

By the time his daughter met him at the airport in Nashville, he had to be placed in a wheelchair to get to her car.

At a local hospital, his doctor sent him immediately to critical care. Bleeding ulcers had left him so depleted that

nine pints of blood were required to replace and maintain the eight pints his body normally contained.

If that were not enough, he developed an irregular heartbeat. Not only did he have two ulcers cauterized, but heart surgery was in his immediate future. A delay of eight days to build his strength preceded quadruple bypass surgery.

After recovering at home, he returned to work but did not regain his stamina.

"For two to three months, I felt like a zombie," he said.

Back in the hospital, he had a faulty gall bladder removed. All the while, he was being treated for kidney stones.

In the midst of his own discomfort, Faulkner's wife had both legs run over by her own automobile in a freak accident.

Today, he is returning to normal physical stamina, but the man whose work is ministering to ministers said the experience has heightened his sensitivity to others' needs.

"Before I became so ill, I had heard the same stories over and over ... 'the church doesn't like me, the deacons are after me.' I was getting numb to the concerns of others. Now, every person's pain is very, very real. You may have heard it a number of times," he said of the crises church staff experience, "but for those who call us, it is the first time for them."

"Being critically ill made a human being out of me," he declared. "Now I hear with compassion and love. Paramount in my thinking since last June is the providence of God. He can make us more aware of what is going on around us."



NEW UNDERSTANDING — Brooks Faulkner (right) enjoys a game of basketball with Adam Noll, managing director of the Downtown YMCA in Nashville, Tenn. Health crises in Faulkner's life have made him more sensitive to the needs of his peers. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

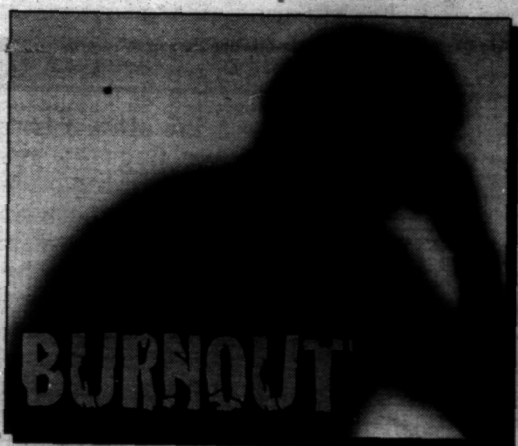
LeaderCare crisis intervention includes an emergency telephone number, (888) 789-1911 (answered from 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Central time, Mondays through Fridays).

Mediation services, assistance toward renewal in ministry and help in restoration to ministry or career transition are offered.

The Sunday School Board has dedicated a staff, whose backgrounds include a wide range of experience and educational skills, to LeaderCare issues,

Faulkner said. Expertise, academic writing, and extensive counseling experience in burnout, stress, forced termination, career assessment and organizational and leadership skills are among abilities shared among the LeaderCare staff.

In addition to the crisis line, people interested in career assessment, personal development resources, wellness information, or other non-emergency LeaderCare services may call (615) 251-2265.



WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Sullivan speaks on polity

"Reconciled" debuts

Child abuse in churches

Secretaries convene

'Nothing Sacred' cancelled

NEW YORK (BP) — Ultimately, there was "Nothing Sacred" about the ratings of the ABC drama about a Catholic priest, thus it has been dropped from the Disney-owned network's fall schedule, according to news reports May 19.

"Nothing Sacred" was ABC's much-hyped Thursday night leadoff show last fall — and much-criticized by Catholic and evangelical groups as well.

In mid-March, despite a warm reception among many newspaper TV critics, "Nothing Sacred" had dropped to the least-watched of all TV shows of the major networks and was pulled by the ABC. At the time, however, ABC issued no formal statement about the show's future.

The show's ratings tumble had prompted ABC to move it to Saturday nights at 8 p.m. Eastern and then 9 p.m., during which time the network also pre-empted the show numerous times.

Looking back

10 years ago

Warren County Baptists act to remove triple X-rated videos from seven area video rental stores. A resolution sent to all association churches asks Baptists to express to store owners their opposition to the videos. If that is not effective, Warren County Baptists say they will consider a boycott.

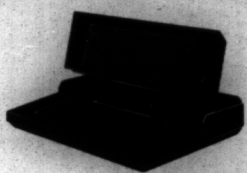
20 years ago

Richard A. (Dick) Brogan is elected president of Mississippi Baptist Seminary in Jackson. Trustees elect Brogan to succeed T. B. Brown, who is taking disability retirement effective June 8. The seminary is a joint effort of National Baptists and Southern Baptists.

50 years ago

One of the most memorable speeches of the 1948 Southern Baptist Convention in Memphis is Mississippi youth leader Chester Swor's forceful presentation of youth problems: "Our Youth and the World Today."

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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**Postmaster: Send changes of address
to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box
530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send
news, communication, and address
changes to The Editor, BAPTIST
RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS
39205-0530 (601) 968-3800**

VOLUME 122 NUMBER 18
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi
churches. Periodicals postage paid at
Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State
Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items —
one calendar week prior to requested pub-
lication date. Advertising — two calendar
weeks prior to requested publication date.

An Orwellian hero for our day

Imagine for a moment that a person you've never met secretly took your 13-year-old daughter out of state for elective surgery without your consent. Imagine further that when your daughter began bleeding uncontrollably on the return trip, this total stranger shoved her out of the car and left her to die on the side of the road.

Lastly, imagine yourself sitting by the telephone awaiting the dreaded call, "This is the state police. About your daughter ..."

If you can picture that in your mind, you have a good grasp of the real-life nightmare in which Joyce Fairley found herself when her daughter Crystal disappeared in 1995. What you may find hard to believe, however, is that the behavior of the stranger is being defended as a noble act.

Joyce Fairley told her story before two congressional committees on May 20-21. It's a twisted tale, devoid of logic but appropriate in a sick way for the time in which we live. Here's the short version.

Rosa Hartford took young Crystal from her Pennsylvania home one day in 1995 and headed by car to nearby New York. Crystal, barely 13 years of age, was pregnant by Hartford's 18-year-old stepson, Michael Kilmer.

Crystal's home state of Pennsylvania has a parental consent law, whereby minors must obtain permission from a parent or judge before an abortion can be performed. The State of New York has no such law, so any minor can get an abortion with no questions asked.

That was the situation in which Crystal unwillingly found herself. Pressured by her predatory boyfriend and his calculating stepmother, Crystal agreed to secretly accompany Hartford to New York for an abortion.

However, the plan went terribly wrong

on the way back to Pennsylvania. When Crystal began bleeding from the botched abortion, Hartford panicked and put her out of the car thirty miles from home. Crippled by severe pain and bleeding ever more profusely, Crystal could only await her fate on the dirty, lonely roadside.

Thankfully, Crystal was discovered in time to save her life and be reunited with her mother. Kilmer was convicted of statutory rape. Hartford was found guilty of interference with the custody of a minor but saw her conviction overturned.

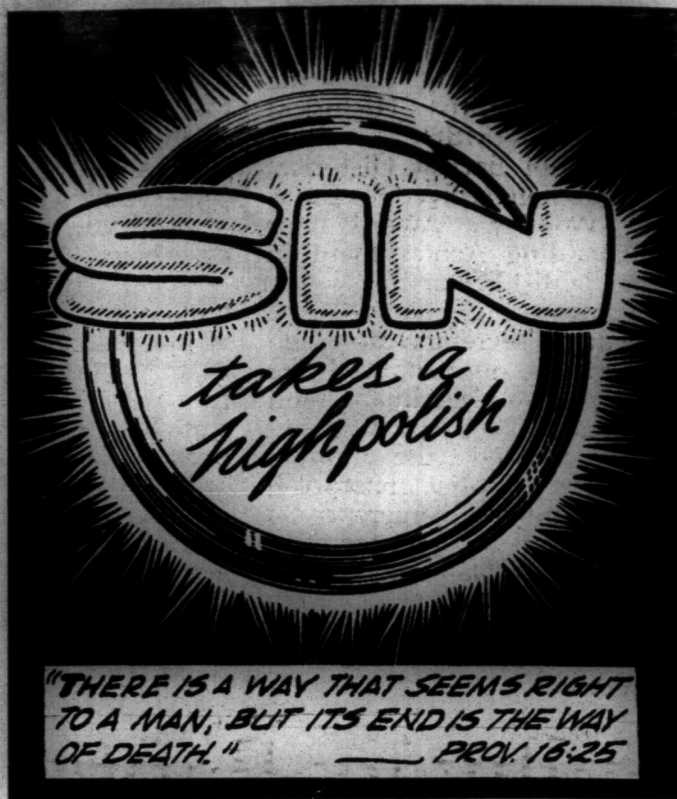
In response to the proposed Child Custody Act now working its way through Congress, which would prohibit people from stealing children from their homes for secret abortions, pro-abortion forces find themselves defending Hartford in a way only they can understand.

"It's just another example of trying to tighten access to abortions," said Shelia Moore, director of Pro-Choice Mississippi, in the May 31 edition of The Clarion-Ledger newspaper.

Incredibly, Moore goes on in the newspaper article to say that most children the Act would protect have been having sex with their fathers and can't talk to them about parental consent, anyway.

In the same article, Lisa Gerard, director of the Fairmount Center abortion clinic in Dallas — Texas being the closest state to Mississippi without a parental consent law — echoed Moore's comments.

"This is just one more way to open the door for minors to seek illegal abortions," Gerard said, adding that underground abortion mills will spring up if the Act passes. That's a remarkable statement, con-



sidering Crystal's perfectly legal "above-ground" abortion nearly killed her.

This is indeed an interesting day in which to be alive. A minor child can be suspended for bringing aspirin to school without parents' permission, but that same child can travel hundreds of miles for a dangerous medical procedure without parents' permission or even their knowledge.

A total stranger can heroically make all manner of life-changing decisions for other people's children and not be held accountable, because those children have likely been having sex with their fathers.

My apologies to George Orwell. He was right all along about "Newspeak."

Her name is Mary Scott Street — my two-year-old granddaughter. Recently, "Podner" (our nickname for each other) spent the better part of a week with her paternal grandparents.

Each morning she would accompany me to post the flag of our country and say, "Good morning, flag!" Each evening when we would retrieve the flag she would say, "Good night, flag!"

I recount that to tell you how important the Stars and Stripes are to me. You see, on 4 June 1967, I was sworn in as a chaplain in the Mississippi Army National Guard and will spend Religious Liberty Sunday at Camp Shelby leading public worship at Greer Chapel.

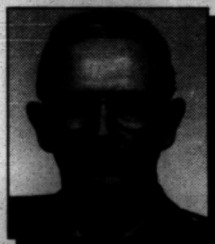
So, for thirty-one years I have been most cognizant of the constitutional guarantee of the right to worship as one sees fit, as long as one doesn't abridge the religious liberty of another. This particular liberty is one of the deep meanings of the flag of our nation.

The motto of the Army chaplaincy is *pro deo et patria*, for God and Country! Alas, there have been times when Americans have not always been on God's side. When that happens we betray all that for which the American flag stands.

After John Wilkes Booth shot president Lincoln, he leaped to the stage from the president's box. Ironically, he caught his spur in the middle of his jump and broke his leg.

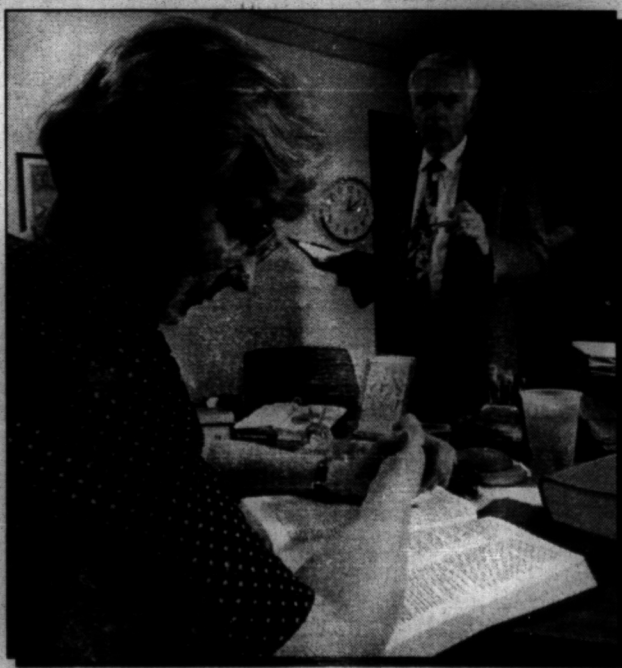
Do you happen to know what tripped him? He tripped on the American flag! Whenever we are embarrassed as a nation, it is generally because we have tripped on our own flag.

GUEST OPINION:



Celebrating our religious liberty

By James W. Street, pastor
Calvary Church, Jackson



RELIGIOUS LIBERTY SUNDAY JUNE 7, 1998

"...Be ready always to give an answer..."

1 Peter 3:15

We almost tripped over our own flag as a result of a civil lawsuit filed on November 23, 1979, by two seniors at Harvard Law School complaining that the army chaplaincy violated the establishment clause of the first amendment to the Constitution: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

The passage of almost two centuries of national existence, coupled with the students' law suit, clarified and codified chaplains as the military's primary agents for ensuring free exercise of belief for all who serve or served in the proud uniforms of their country.

This concept — assuring the free exercise of religion — was to be revived in the 1980's as the unique and principal responsibility of the military chaplain and became the major thrust in the chaplaincy's defense in the suit brought by the students.

On January 16, 1986, the students dropped the case and it was dismissed without prejudice. All chaplains and others interested in the free exercise of religion for all Americans, including brave women and men in the uniform of our armed forces, must ever remain vigilant.

Then someday if Mary Scott Street, my "Podner," chooses to wear the uniform of our country, she will have the opportunity to worship, salute the flag, and defend our country — One Nation, Under God!

James Watkins Street is a Colonel and State Area Command Chaplain in the Mississippi Army National Guard.

Historical Commission receives national award

(Special to The Baptist Record) — At the recent 1998 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Historical Society (MBHC), the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission received the Davis C. Woolley Award for Outstanding Achievement in State Baptist History.

Edward McMillan, MBHC executive secretary, accepted the award on behalf of the Commission. McMillan and Charles Martin, MBHC member, attended the annual Southern Baptist Historical Society (SBHS) conference in Dallas April 23-25 on the campus of Dallas Baptist University.

McMillan also serves as a member of the SBHS Council of Advisors.

Davis C. Woolley, longtime SBHS executive director prior to the elimination of the Commission by the Southern Baptist Convention, provided leadership for the collection, preservation, and distribution of historical materials for SBC churches.

SBHS, currently operating without SBC financial support, is maintaining an active program supported by funds received from individuals, churches, and corporate supporters.

McMillan, who recently retired as vice-president of graduate and special programs at Mississippi College in Clinton, will retain his post as MBHS executive secretary.

He notes that "the commission is expanding its services to

the churches that are celebrating significant anniversaries (100, 125, 150, 175 or 200 years) and other churches that request assistance with historical research."

Also, appeals are being made regularly to churches to deposit copies of minutes and other irreplaceable materials with MBHS for safekeeping.

"Recent fires and other destructive acts of nature have poignantly demonstrated the value of having copies of vital church statistics and documents safely filed with the Commission," he said.

The collection of association minutes is also an urgent agenda item as a part of the routine daily operations of the MBHS library/archives.

To date, 26 churches out of a

total of 51 churches with significant anniversaries in 1998 have conducted or scheduled celebrations, with additional filings being received weekly.

All churches that have reached a 1998 milestone of 100, 125, 150, 175 or 200 years are urged to commemorate those anniversaries and to seek assistance, if needed, from MBHS, P.O. Box 4024, Clinton, MS 39058. Telephone: (601) 925-3434.

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST
Record

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

JUNE 4, 1998

VOL. 122

No. 18



Sullivan: Baptists must understand polity

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A request to define the word "polity" likely would elicit blank stares from many Southern Baptists.

Understanding polity and how it works in their churches and denomination is something James L. Sullivan hopes to change through a revised edition of his book, "Baptist Polity As I See It," being released in June by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's (BSSB) Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Sullivan, 88, former Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) president and also BSSB president for 22 years, is widely considered to be the SBC's elder statesman. He is a native of Tylertown.

"Southern Baptist polity is essentially our Southern Baptist way of doing things," Sullivan writes in the introduction to his book. The first edition was published in 1983 from lectures he delivered at Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

The 1998 edition has been updated to include the denominational restructuring, "Covenant for a New Century," and rewritten in a more readable style which Sullivan hopes will draw a wider readership.

Sullivan believes Southern Baptists need to understand not only what they do, but why. For example, why does a church vote at the end of a service to receive people into its membership?

"We do this because we have a congregational form of government," he writes. "This forces us to let the congregation express itself in this matter so that we have a knowledge of what the congregation thinks. The vote taken is not literally for the purpose of voting people into the church. Rather, it expresses a congregation's impression about the qualification of the candidate for membership in the body."

In his book, Sullivan relies on experience gained from 72 years of preaching as well as observations from his leadership roles as pastor, trustee, agency head and SBC president. Chapters address forces that shaped polity, the trustee system, the annual SBC meeting, financing SBC ministries, and areas needing attention and improvement.

Outlining least-understood areas of Southern Baptist polity, Sullivan repeated from the first edition of his book 12 common misunderstandings of beliefs and methods. He begins with the mistaken perception of many that the denomination is hierarchical in nature, with churches uniting to form associations, associations joining forces to form state conventions and

state conventions uniting to form the SBC.

"Every Baptist body is autonomous and self-governing," Sullivan emphasized in an interview. "With a democratic process you must have checks and balances."

In another area, he said some mistakenly believe the SBC controls its institutions by making or withholding allocations from the Cooperative Program (CP).

"CP funds are for support, not control," Sullivan writes. "Therefore, if correction needs to be made in a Baptist institution or agency, the best way to accomplish the desired change is through contact with the agency president or chairman of trustees and not through seeking to adjust CP funds or gifts given to support that institution."

In the chapter on the recent SBC restructuring which reduced the number of national entities from 19 to 12, Sullivan predicted implementation of the changes "should help us move toward greater unity and accomplishments."

However, he wrote that taking more time to develop the plan and communicate its goals might have enhanced understanding and support.

"Had there been opportunity for greater discussion between the Executive Committee, the Program and Structure Study Committee and the state conventions, it would have been easier to implement the actions and bring about the changes desired for maximum efficiency in making the covenant come to pass more rapidly as dreamed by our denomination," Sullivan writes.

"Circumstances perhaps made it necessary to move more quickly," he told Baptist Press.

Sullivan said he opted for a personal approach in his writing to "candidly express my own viewpoints and opinions and be personally accountable for them."

"Where weaknesses still exist in Baptist polity, or where there is lack of knowledge or disregard for principles under which Southern Baptists are

supposed to operate, I have tried to point them out with a hope that corrections will be made. If corrections cannot come forth, perhaps at least improvements can be experienced," he writes in the preface.

Church members, churches, associations, state conventions and national entities "must work together to bring persons to God through Jesus Christ by way of the doors open to us as Christian witnesses. Unless Christ is magnified, we have nothing to say. Unless the lost are redeemed and the redeemed are instructed, we have little or nothing to do."

"Baptist Polity As I See It" costs \$10.99 and is available through Baptist Book Stores and other Christian stores or by calling (800) 233-1123.

Deadline is today for MBCB exec. director nominations

Since being elected as executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), Bill Causey has led, worked with, and challenged Mississippi Baptists in carrying out our mission of bringing Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

As you know, Dr. Causey has announced his retirement effective September 30, 1998.

You have given the MBCB executive committee the responsibility of submitting to you a nominee for your election as executive director.

We believe that God has invited us to work with him to recommend the person he has chosen for this position.

The assignment will require faith and action. If we will obey God, his will shall be accomplished. Would you please pray daily for each member of the executive committee?

You are invited to submit to us, in writing, the name, address, and telephone number of any person you feel would be qualified to serve as executive director.

Please send the letter to the address listed below.

The executive committee will contact, by letter, each person you nominate and they will be asked to submit a resume to the executive committee.

June 4, 1998, has been set as the cutoff date for receiving nominations. June 18, 1998, has been set as the cutoff date for nominees to submit their resumes.

Robert K. Upchurch
Chairman
MBCB Executive Committee
P.O. Drawer 409
Tupelo, MS 38802



Upchurch

Reconciliation song premiered in Baldwyn

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Written from a lifetime of commitment to ministry, a love for gospel music — and at the request of a long-time friend — the song "Reconciled" by Mona Faith Fant and Dan Goeller was premiered May 25 during a Celebration of Reconciliation at the Mt. Zion Community Church in Baldwyn.

"It all started in the fall of last year, when Richard (Brogan) asked my husband and me to help in a reconciliation conference," Fant recalled.

Brogan is the consultant in the Mission Extension and Associational Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board who focuses on relationships with African American churches. Fant and her husband Gene are longtime friends of Brogan and his wife Kitty.

"Richard also asked me if I would write a song about racial reconciliation. I told him that when I did a song on a specific theme, I needed everything I could get about the subject," she said.

"I started by focusing on the music, and decided I wanted something easily sung but with a message. I wanted an arrangement that a large choir with a large orchestra could sing, or a small group with a piano could sing," she said.

Fant worked with arranger Dan Goeller in Nashville. After praying about it, the song came together.

"The first part of the song is about reconciliation between God and man. This is the foundation for all reconciliation.

"In the bridge, I began dealing with the problem of reconciliation between people," she said.

The song ends with a subtle but important change in the words. The first time through, the words are, "Reconciled, reconciled, I am reconciled..." On the repeat after the bridge, it is changed to, "Reconciled, reconciled, we are reconciled..."

"Reconciliation must also be among Christians themselves," Fant observed. "I wanted the song to start with our relationship with God and end with Christians reconciled to each other."

For the song's premier, the Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church choir of Hattiesburg was selected. Tito Lanier is the director.

"I wrote the song as a gospel song, but I also wanted a little bit of black gospel in it. I told Tito that he could adapt it some," she said. He did.

The Mt. Olive choir and instrumentalist presented a pulsating song of power and deep conviction before a crowd of about 200 people in the unairconditioned former warehouse where Mt. Zion worships.



WORKING ON RECONCILIATION — Roberta Matthews (left) and Chaney Dalrymple (center) share bread with J.C. Prather, Prentiss Association director of missions, at the Celebration of Reconciliation at Mt. Zion Community Church near Baldwyn. (Photo by Carl M. White)

The opportunity to write a song about reconciliation seemed the natural result of a life time of ministry.

She hopes the song helps promote reconciliation among the races. In the dedication, Fant wrote:

The choral arrangement is dedicated in particular to racial reconciliation and to all the faithful, godly leaders and followers of racial reconciliation, both present and those who walked before us.

"What we are doing now will set the pace for the future," she said. "I am so thrilled because in 1998 I was blessed with three grandchildren."

"My grandchildren remind me of our need to continue what our forefathers, who had a heart for reconciliation, have done. Some lost their lives and jobs. Are we willing to risk the journey?"

The song "Reconciled" will have its Tennessee premier at the Mona Faith Gospel Jubilee on June 19 at the Texas Troubadour Theater in Nashville.

For more information on that performance, call (615) 885-0028. Copies of the choral arrangement of "Reconciled" are available at the Jackson Baptist Book Store in Ridgewood Court.



CHOIR AND COMPOSER TOGETHER — Members of the Mt. Olive M.B. Church Ensemble meet with the composer of the song "Reconciled," at Mt. Zion Community Church in Baldwyn. On the front row, from left are: Mona Faith, composer; Dian Dennis, Viettia Roche, and Tito Lanier, choir director. On the back row, from left are: Jerry Washington, Cindi Henry, Cody Sharod Hull, Brandone Abrams, Jackie Crawford, Wanda Hardy, Gloria Brown, and Geraldine Jackson. (Photo by Carl M. White)

So Brogan sent her material, along with a book he has written about his 30 years in the ministry of racial reconciliation.

"The testimony of Richard's lifelong dedication to reconciliation inspired me to write the song," Fant said.

Grahams discuss father-to-son ministry transition

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP) — Billy Graham acknowledged his days as an evangelist are numbered, but he expressed his confidence in his named successor, his son, Franklin Graham.

Billy and Franklin Graham faced reporters during a news conference at the University of New Mexico arena, The Pit, in Albuquerque May 8, in the midst of New Mexico Festival '98 featuring the preaching of Franklin Graham May 6-8 and Billy Graham May 9-10.

Franklin Graham, 45, has been named by the board of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association as his 79-year-old father's successor, when the elder Graham allows his son to take over.

When will that be? Billy Graham said he will retire "when the Lord retires me."

Indicating he did not expect that day to be too far in the future, he affirmed his commitment to continue as head evangelist

for his evangelistic association for "as long as I have the strength." When he is no longer able, Billy Graham continued, "I'm going to step aside and let Franklin take over."

"Franklin's a far better preacher than I am now," his father said. "Maybe I'm a little bit better known, but he is becoming known in various parts of the world."

Billy Graham said one reason he believes the transition will go so well is that he and his son believe and preach the same thing — that Jesus Christ is the only way to God.

Acknowledging some people consider that viewpoint "narrow," he noted it is what the Bible says.

For the time being, Billy Graham is still preaching the gospel. He said he feels a little weak when he stands nowadays, but the moment he puts his hands on the pulpit, he feels

the prayers of Christians and strength from God.

When asked what one message he wanted to leave with New Mexico during his visit, Billy Graham answered, "God loves them."

The only question that seemed to sniff out a controversial answer was one asked of Franklin Graham. When he takes over for his father, he was asked, would he get involved in politics? He replied he had no desire to get involved in politics, but if a politician asks for spiritual advice, he would give it.

Franklin Graham said he hopes that the benevolent organization he now heads, Samaritan's Purse, will eventually become "the passion ministry" of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

The five-day evangelistic effort, which yielded nearly 6,000 decisions for Christ, gave every indication that things are

going to be different when Billy Graham retires and Franklin takes over preaching responsibilities at major crusades.

Not only was the effort called a "festival," both father and son showed up Friday night in denim and leather coats and blue jeans, with Franklin wearing a ball cap.

Even the use of the invitation hymn that has followed Billy Graham's sermons for decades, "Just As I Am," was jettisoned during the week in favor of the more contemporary-sounding "Come Just As You Are."

This year, Franklin Graham has conducted other festivals in Australia, Peru, and Charlottesville, Va. He will lead one in Greenville, N.C., in September.

Billy Graham is scheduled to conduct major crusades this year in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, in June and Tampa, Fla., in October.

Attorney: screening volunteers is a must

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A Southern Baptist youth pastor in Florida is convicted of sexually molesting 12 boys. Enraged parents sue the church and receive a \$4.2 million judgment — four times the church's insurance coverage.

An insurance company in Oklahoma receives 93 church-related child abuse claims in one year.

In a nationwide survey of Southern Baptist pastors, 14.1% confess to "sexual behavior inappropriate to a minister."

With stories like these making headlines in recent years, one might envision church leaders across the country scurrying to adopt policies and procedures aimed at reducing the risk of sexual abuse in their congregations.

"There are way too many Southern Baptist churches that aren't doing anything to minimize the risk of a minor being sexually touched, abused, or otherwise physically injured while involved in child care, day care, or church-related activities."

"A minority of churches have studied the issues, approved policies and procedures to minimize risk and have actually implemented and are following and enforcing protective policies, but, sadly, the majority are way short of that," stated Steven Lewis, an Oklahoma City attorney who has led seminars across the country on legal issues impacting churches.

Sunday School director and chairman-elect of deacons at Quail Springs Church in Oklahoma City, Lewis also serves as executive director of Church Forward, Inc., a private religious service corporation established to help churches deal with such issues.

He has helped numerous churches and pastors through situations where true and

false allegations of sexual misconduct and child abuse have been raised against them.

"When it comes to a court case, few of our churches are prepared to defend themselves. What would your pastor say if he were asked, 'Have you adopted and implemented policies to make sure that no one who has been accused of abuse has

access to minors at church?' or 'Does your church interview potential workers, have them complete applications and perform adequate background checks?'

"The vast majority of churches cannot answer 'yes' to those questions. The risks and potential damages are much larger if a plaintiff can show a jury that the church did nothing to protect its children and minors."

Lewis cited three reasons, in priority, why a church should have sexual abuse prevention policies and procedures in place:

- ◆ Protect minors from abuse.
- ◆ Protect paid and volunteer church workers from false allegations.
- ◆ Protect the church from suits.

Some churches, such as First Church, Houston, and Highland Church, Vicksburg, Miss., conduct criminal background checks of paid and volunteer workers who have contact with minors.

Despite frequent news about lawsuits and allegations of church-related sexual abuse, James Cobble, publisher of Church Law and Tax Report, told Christianity Today only 27% of 1,700 churches surveyed in 1996 conducted criminal-record or employment-history background checks on prospective workers. About 36% of the churches surveyed reported doing some

form of screening.

Cobble told the magazine that while churches won't be able to screen out every pedophile, "a screening program in the church is like putting a spotlight on the church and saying to anybody who's predatory, 'You're going to be exposed to screening, and people will find out.'"

Name changed for insurer

DALLAS (BP) — Preferred Risk, the property and casualty insurance carrier endorsed by the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, changed its name to The Guidant Insurance Group in May. Coverages and rates will not be affected as a result of the name change.

The Annuity Board first endorsed Preferred Risk in 1991 and now more than 6,600 Southern Baptist churches and institutions have coverage through the company. The company was founded in 1947 as one of America's first auto insurance companies for non-drinkers.

Children's minister develops sexual abuse policy

HOUSTON (BP) — Cindy Pitts has two words of advice for churches interested in implementing policies and procedures aimed at reducing the risk of sexual abuse: 1) educate your people and 2) study the issue well and decide what is best for your church.

"This was a three-year process for us," Pitts, minister to children at First Church, Houston, said. The guidelines, adopted by the church in 1995, cover processes for selecting, supervising and training members who work with minors.

After learning of the potential for sexual abuse at church at conferences in the early 1990s, Pitts decided to take action.

Using similar documents from Boy Scouts of America, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and Church Law & Tax Report, she created the first draft of a "potential workers" screening form for her church.

Next, she presented it to her pastor and church staff. A special committee was then created to further develop the document. Age group ministers, counselors, and attorneys served on the committee, making recommendations that were re-presented to the church staff before being considered and

approved first by the deacons and then the church as a whole.

"You need to educate your members about why these types of policies and procedures are needed," Pitts stressed. "Help them understand that it's about creating a safe environment for preschoolers, children and youth."

Describing how she selects children's workers at her church, Pitts outlined the following four-step process.

First, she has a personal interview with the applicant. She talks with them about their salvation experience, what is motivating them to get involved and the job description for the position they are inquiring about. And, as her church's policy requires, she asks the person if he or she has ever been the victim of abuse.

"I've had several people admit to being victims of sexual abuse in the past," Pitts said. "And that certainly is not going to disqualify them from serving. I'm just looking to make sure they have dealt with what happened to them and received the counseling and support they need. We do not revictimize the victim!"

Second, she asks them to

complete a potential workers profile, a screening form required of anyone who works with children and youth 18 or younger. The form secures information such as driver's license, Social Security numbers and references and also asks whether the applicant has ever been convicted of a crime. The church also contracts with an outside company to perform a criminal background check on all applicants.

Since the church began screening workers three years ago, Pitts said very few applicants have refused to sign the form. "And if they don't sign it; they don't teach. It's as simple as that."

Third, applicants are required to observe a class session in the area they are interested in serving. "During that time, we're also observing them, to see how they interact with the children," she said.

Applicants must attend a two-hour

training session where all policies and procedures related to working with minors are explained.

"We want to do everything possible to make sure we have quality workers," Pitts said. "By the time someone goes through this process, they know that we take this ministry very seriously."

Creating a safer environment

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — While developing sexual abuse prevention policies and procedures may be a time-intensive process, there are several actions churches can take immediately to secure a safer environment for preschoolers, children and youth.

Cindy Lumpkin, preschool consultant in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Bible teaching-reaching division, suggests these actions:

- 1) Raise church members' awareness of possible dangers to preschoolers, children, and youth through seminars, training, newsletters, etc.
- 2) Require any new church member to wait six months before serving as a volunteer with minors. Most experts say most pedophiles won't wait that long for a chance to prey on a child.
- 3) Be alert to any signs of abnormal behavior in minors.
- 4) Elevate the importance of youth, children's, and preschool ministries in your church. Make sure members know these areas are priorities.
- 5) "Abuse-proof your building," i.e. look for unsecured areas that may leave children unprotected.
- 6) Make sure two unrelated adults are in every room where minors are present, e.g. Sunday School classes, choir rooms, cabins used for youth retreats.
- 7) Allow only parents or authorized adults to pick up preschoolers or children from a church classroom. If a teacher doesn't know the parent, ask for identification.

VBS dates

Bethesda, Terry: June 21-24; 6-8 p.m.; children through 6th grade; for more information, call (601) 878-5399 or 878-5141.



Baptist Student Union (BSU) of the Baptist Health Systems, recently held its annual flea market to help raise money for summer missions. More than \$3,200 was raised during the program, which supports the Mississippi BSU in sending 167 summer missionaries around the world. Dot Terry, a Baptist volunteer and a member of the Board of Regents of the TRUST, Baptist's Office of Philanthropy, donated her 1986 Chevrolet van to the TRUST. Pictured (from left) looking over the van are Laura Jones, TRUST vice president; Marty Harper, BSU coordinator; Terry; Bettye Covington and Jack Covington who purchased the van; and Jay Chance, executive director of the TRUST.



First Church, Pascagoula, had a ribbon cutting ceremony for its preschool/learning center on May 17. The center will be licensed for approximately 200 children during the week and will serve as children's Sunday School facilities on Sunday. The upstairs will accommodate Adult 1, 2, and 3. Pictured are Rex Yancey, pastor, cutting the ribbon, and members of the building committee (from left) include Mitch McNabb, chairman; Bud Phillips; Sarah Holder; Mavis Hall Clark; Betty Grantham; Bobby Lynn; and Harvey Barton. The church utilized the Challenge To Build Program and pledged one and one half million dollars, above the budget, over three years. The total cost of the project is approximately three and one half million dollars.



Brotherhood of Winston Association recently conducted its local mission activity for the summer. The men put new siding on the home of a senior adult, repaired windows, and painted the house. Pictured are (from left) Gene Hill, Macedonia Church; L.V. Jones, Noxapater Church; Paul Goodin and Danny Cheatham, Gum Branch Church; Mason Carraway and Bobby Holton, Noxapater Church; James Yarbrough, Gum Branch Church; Paul Blanchard, director of missions; and Perry Yarbrough, Gum Branch Church. Several other individuals participated in the mission project, who are not pictured.



Participants in the State Bible Drill of New Hebron Church, Lawrence Association, pictured (from left) front row, are Brian Little, Drew Mayhough, Cori Walker, Christy McCloud, Laura Daughdrill; back row, Kevin Butler, Sherri Sutton, Leann Daughdrill, Kim Westmoreland. Not pictured is Lauren Little.

North Columbia Church, Columbia, will dedicate its new worship center, June 7. Activities will include Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship service, 10:30 a.m.; covered dish luncheon, noon; and afternoon service beginning at 1:30 p.m. and concluding with the laying of the cornerstone. The worship center will seat 550 and is constructed of steel and brick with stained glass windows. John E. Watts is interim pastor.

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HOMEcomings

Bethesda, Terry: June 14; services start at 11 a.m.; followed by covered dish lunch in fellowship hall; William H. Perkins, editor of The Baptist Record, guest speaker; Marty Wilson, pastor.

Mt. Zion (Lincoln): June 7; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; noon meal; business meeting and memorial service will follow at 1:15 p.m.

High Hill (Neshoba): June 7; 11 a.m.; noon fellowship meal and afternoon singing; Bobby Waggoner, guest speaker.

er; New Borne, guest singers; Ray Files, pastor.

Calvary, New Augusta: June 7; Ronnie Turner, preaching; covered dish lunch following morning service; revival to begin on June 8 (more information in revival dates).

Parkhill, Jackson: June 14; 42nd anniversary; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Joe Stovall, guest speaker; Jimmy Bailey, music.

Woodhaven, Ocean Springs: June 7; services begin at 11 a.m.,

followed by dinner in fellowship hall and gospel singing; Bob Storie, currently with Jackson Association, guest speaker.

Philadelphia, Caseyville: June 14; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; James Allgood (1933-1937), guest speaker; Bill Wright, pastor.

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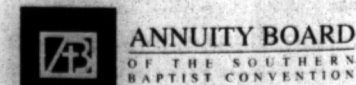
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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 4, 1998

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

AWARDS



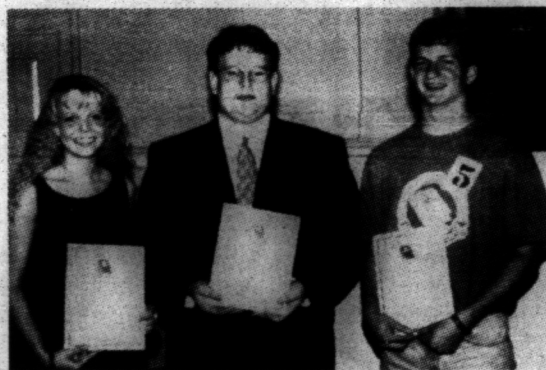
Friend of Bible Drill

Marcus Peagler, director of Discipleship and Family Ministry for Mississippi Baptists, is pictured here presenting the **Friend of Bible Drill** award to **Mrs. Lillian Walters**. Walters is a long time Bible Drill leader, children's Discipleship specialist and Bible Drill leader for Metro Baptist Association, and Discipleship Training director for Lakeshore Church in Metro Association.

Nine Year Bible Drillers Scholarship Drill

These three winners were selected from around 20 participants in the **Nine Year Bible Drillers Scholarship Drill**.

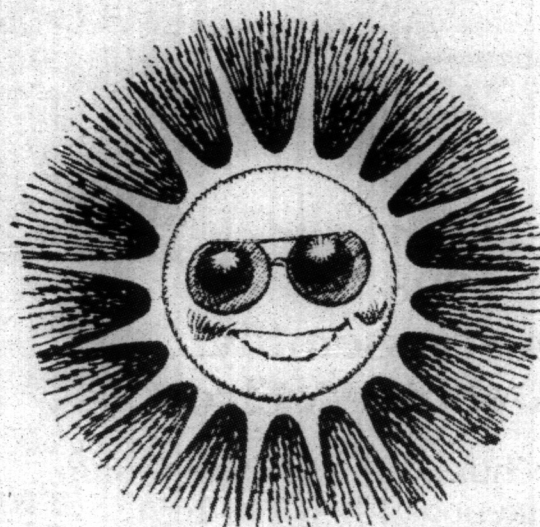
Pictured here, left to right, are **Amanda Moore**, the second place winner, from Trinity Baptist Church (Neshoba Association), **Jim Young**, the first placed winner, from Hope Baptist Church (Neshoba Association) and **Scott Wallace**, the third place winner, from Rocky Creek Baptist Church in Lucedale (George Association). All of the participants in this drill have participated in Bible Drills all nine years they were eligible for Bible Drill and on the State level in Bible Drills all six years in Youth Bible Drills. Each of our Baptist colleges provide four-year scholarships for these winners.



Junior High Drill

These three winners of the **Junior High Drill** were selected from over a hundred Junior High participants. They are **Jennifer Kearschner**, the

first place winner from Improve Baptist Church (Marion Association), **Adam Leggett**, the second place winner (tie), from First Baptist Church, Clinton (Metro Association), and **Peter Young**, the second place winner (tie), from Hope Baptist Church (Neshoba Association). Miss Kearschner will represent Mississippi in the demonstration Bible Drill at Ridgecrest Discipleship and Family Development Week, July 4-10, 1998.



**Saturday
June 27**

8:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

**Parkway
Baptist Church,
Clinton**

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An Adult Equipping Team Event

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- ◆ **Lunch**
11:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
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11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Adult Conferences**
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Dinner**
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AWARDS

Speaker's Tournament



These four winners were selected from 24 participants in the **State Speakers Tournament** held at Alta Woods Baptist Church on April 25. They each received four year scholarships to Mississippi College. They are pictured here left to right: **Paige Welborn**, the third place winner from McLaurin Heights Baptist Church, Pearl (Rankin Association), **Kristen Cockrell**, the fourth place winner, from FBC, Mize (Smith Association), **Darian Duckworth**, the first place winner, from FBC, Jackson (Metro Association), and **Melissa Bellah**, the second place winner, from FBC, Clinton (Metro Association). Also pictured is **Chad Phillips** of Mississippi College.

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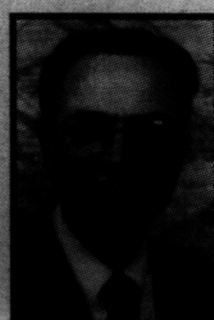
Gaye Sikes
Keyboard Specialist
MBCB
Organist
First Baptist Church
Yazoo City



Kathy Vail
Keyboard Specialist
MBCB
Organist
First Baptist Church
Hattiesburg



Don Phillips
Composer/Arranger
Minister of Music
First Baptist Church
Franklin, Ky.



Harry Eskew
Professor of
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Barry Tweedy
Minister of Music
Hernando Baptist
Church
Hernando
Miss. State Presch.
Choir Specialist



Keith Watson
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Green Hill Baptist
Church
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June 18 Tylertown
7:00 p.m. 409 Tyler Avenue
Tylertown Baptist Church 601-876-3436

June 19 Pascagoula
7:00 p.m. 902 Live Oak Street
First Baptist Church 228-762-2343

June 21 Picayune
11:00 a.m. 401 Goodyear Boulevard
(Service) First Baptist Church 601-798-4886

June 21 Crystal Springs
7:00 p.m. 300 South Jackson Street
(Service) First Baptist Church 601-892-1149

June 22 Bruce
7:00 p.m. 223 East Johnson Street
First Baptist Church 601-983-2218

June 23 Jackson
7:00 p.m. 431 North State Street
First Baptist Church 601-949-1918

Registration begins at 10 a.m.

Orientation: 12:45 p.m.

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June 5- June 18, 1998

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Jesus Gives Us Peace - "Peace I leave with you. my peace I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled. neither let it be afraid." John 14:27

- Pray that God will give you the peace to weather the storms of life today.

Religious Liberty Sunday (Christian Action Commission Emphasis). Pray for God to reveal Himself supernaturally to hurting people as they cry out to Him for help.

7

ISC worker Alicia Farnham in Zimbabwe was involved in a car accident on May 17, and a church member who was riding with her was killed. Pray that this woman's grieving family will come to know the Comforter in a personal way and that Alicia will be strengthened and encouraged as she is surrounded by love from the missionaries.

For GA Summer Camp 8-12; Camp Garaywa; sponsored by WMU. Pray for an unreached people group called the Sangil in the Philippines who have no Christian witness and no believers among them. Pray that God will miraculously open a way for these people to hear the Good News.

For GA Summer Camp 15-19; Camp Garaywa; sponsored by WMU. Royal Ambassador-Challenger Camp 15-19; Central Hills Retreat; sponsored by Brotherhood. All-State Youth Choir Rehearsal camp and tour, William Carey College; sponsored by Church Music.

For the annual Southern Baptist Convention 9-11; Salt Lake City, UT. III Youth Conference 9-13; Gulfshore, Assembly; sponsored by Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

9

Pray for church-planting efforts among the Arabs, Berbers and other people groups in Algeria, and pray that many more workers will go there as "tentmakers."

16

The lack of Christian workers among the Persians of Iran is one reason that they are not being reached. Pray that many will respond to the Father's call to minister among this 99 percent-Muslim group.

10

Pray for one of the churches in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Their prayer is that they will become a "praying church." They meet early in the morning several days a week for prayer.

17

Rejoice over the wonderful news recently received from Tanzania. Their government was considering rescinding the registration of the Organization of Baptist missionaries. Baptist leaders met with government officials and the questions were resolved. The government told the mission "not to worry about it any longer."

11

For V Youth Conference 18-22; Gulfshore Assembly; sponsored by Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Ask God to give the members of Paguranga Chinese Baptist Church in Auckland, New Zealand, insights as they seek His will for a new pastor.

18

For Small Church Pastor/Key Leader Conference; Friendship BC, Pontotoc; sponsored by Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries.

5

Pray for a Christian doctor who ministers to tribal and other unreached peoples of Mindanao in the Philippines. As he ministers to the sick, rejuvenating physical lives, pray that he will be able to give "light" as well.

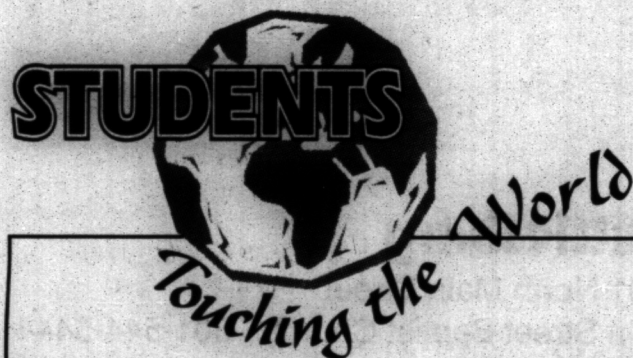
12

Pat Branch is church planter pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Kimberly, ID. This is a church-type mission. Pray for Vacation Bible School, July 5-8. Pray that members will get the Sunday School going well. Ask God to provide the resources to repair the church building.

6

For IV Youth Conference 13-17; Gulfshore Assembly; sponsored by Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. As missionary Debbie McCord of Southeast Asia and Oceania continues treatment for cancer in the U.S., pray that God will be sufficient for her need.

13



Adopt-A-Mississippi BSU Summer Missionary

YES!

We are interested in adopting a Mississippi BSU Summer Missionary appointed through our state Baptist Student Union for the summer of 1998. Please register our request to be assigned a student and send further information.

Name: _____

Church: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

3 Colleges Near Us: _____

Send to: Department of Student Work
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Did you know...

1998 is the 51st year of Mississippi Baptist Student Union sending out Summer Missionaries?

During those 51 years 1,875 students have served, and Mississippi BSUs have raised over \$1.8 million to send them?

That these students are servant leaders, giving up summer jobs and income to become missionaries?

And did you know...

That you and your church can be personally involved and supportive of one of these students as they serve this summer?

By adopting a student for the summer, your WMU and church can experience first-hand support for those who are sacrificing to serve.

You can help by assisting students in many ways:

SPIRITUAL - Praying for and remembering these students.

PHYSICAL - Helping students with small needs such as toiletries, film, stamps, etc. Some churches have involved their VBS during the summer, their children, and their workers, in various support activities of Summer Missionaries.

HOUSE TOPS

Baptist secretaries meet at Camp Garaywa

(Special to The Baptist Record) — Things were "buzzing" around Camp Garaywa, Clinton, for two exciting days in April when the annual Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Conference met at Camp Garaywa in Clinton.

Sponsored by the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, this year's conference was planned, coordinated, and directed by Linda Jenkins, longtime church secretary/pastor's secretary at First Church, Yazoo City.

This year's conference was one of the best attended in years, drawing church, association, agency, and other secretaries from all across the state.

Guests included a group of secretaries from Louisiana who sat in on some of the sessions in order to take information back to their home state.

Worship was led by R. L. and Beth Sigrest, music evangelists from Yazoo City.

Jane Barrett, church administrator at Mt. Hebron West Baptist Church in Elmore, Ala., represented the Church Administration Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Harold T. Bryson of Clinton, a program personality at the 1995 National Conference for Church Secretaries in Nashville, was a keynote speaker.

Simultaneous conferences were held for agency, association, education, financial, and music secretaries. There were also sessions for beginning and one-secretary offices, as well as pastor's secretary, ministry assistant, and office manager roles.

General sessions featured stress management, time management, and personal safety. Other conferences were designed to help the secretaries learn a new craft or hobby, to sharpen a skill, or develop a talent.

Clown ministry, banner ministry, storytelling, creative writing, photography, floral design, scrapbook design, and creative

gifts were some of the topics.

Other features on the program agenda were a business session, a Monday night banquet, shopping in the conference Baptist Book Store, being photographed for the 1998 pictorial directory of Mississippi Baptist secretaries, and a Monday night "fun-and-games" activity.

A silent auction, door prizes, and a canned food drive helped round out the activities.

During the Monday afternoon business meeting, the secretaries adopted a resolution commending Elizabeth Godfrey, president of the National Association of Southern Baptist Secretaries.

Godfrey, pastoral/administrative Secretary at Fairview Church, Columbus, is the first Mississippi secretary to hold a national office.

Danie Robbins of Clinton is the immediate past president of the Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Association.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

USE DEATH PENALTY

Editor:

Much controversy continues to rage relative to the pros and cons of capital punishment. To solve this issue, we must seek a source of information that will reveal the truth as to how a person should stand regarding the death penalty. That true source is the Holy Bible, God's Word.

The reason is that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God" (II Timothy 3:16 KJV). Now that we have found our source of absolute truth, we begin with two questions: When was the death penalty first instituted? And who brought it into being?

We find the answers to these questions in Genesis 8:25 and 9:5-6. The answer to the first

question is when Noah went forth from the ark after the flood (Genesis 8:16 KJV).

The second answer is God himself, who brought the death penalty into being (Genesis 9:5-6 KJV). The law that God gave was to mankind and allowed human government to issue the death penalty to murderers. In fact, the Old Testament records 42 sins punishable by death.

There will be those who will ask about the Ten Commandments, and specifically "Thou shall not kill" (Exodus 20:13 KJV). The answer is simple. That commandment does not pertain to human government carrying out its law, but to individual men in their daily lives.

When the government makes a law that death be

issued to those who are guilty of murder, then it should be carried out. The reason being that the penalty of death for murderers was made law before the crime was committed. (Sorry, Pope Paul II, you're wrong again).

I leave you with the words of the Apostle Paul who wrote much of the New Testament.

"But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully" (I Timothy 1:8 KJV). Now that's according to God's word.

Ricky Kahler
Gulfport

CYBERPORN EVERYWHERE

Editor:

Cyber porn has reached perverted levels beyond all imagination. Worse than Sodom and Gomorrah could ever have been.

Children can see tons of free samples by just answering yes to, "Are you 18?" on the screen.

It's like putting beer machines on every street corner. No one to check I.D.'s. No one to enforce the law. Just a sign that says you must be 18 to buy. It's crazy.

Internet providers are guilty of gross negligence. At the very least they are violating anti-display laws. Parents should try to sue the providers under the Victims of Pornography act passed by Congress a few years ago. It was law suits that brought the tobacco industry to its knees. Football games can be blacked out in different cities. Why couldn't the internet be blocked out so not to transgress the different community standards of porn?

The issue is not individual rights, but it is the rights of the communities to prevent the breeding of Ted Bundy's that will walk their streets and stalk innocent victims and pollute their tranquil environment.

C. Gregory Dukes
Mooresville, IN

NAMES IN THE NEWS

William E. (Gene) Coley was ordained to the ministry on Nov. 29 at Cloverdale Church, Natchez, after accepting a call as pastor to Joppa Church, Joppa, Ill. On program were Norris Curry, pastor of Washington Church, Natchez; David McGuffee, pastor of Cloverdale Church; and James A. Huff, chairman of deacons,

presented Coley with a Bible. Coley attended New Orleans Seminary and Southwestern Seminary. Pictured with Coley are his wife Lynn; children, Jessica, Sarah, Will, and Seth.

The Coleys

Jeffrey Haglund was among the 78 student graduates of

Midwestern Seminary on May 15. He received the master of divinity degree. Haglund is a native of Oxford and attended North Oxford Church. He is currently the youth minister at Tryst Falls Church in Kearney, Mo. His wife, Glenda, fulfilled the requirements for the student wives program and was awarded a certificate in ministry.



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Two candidates announced for SBC 1st vice-president

SALT LAKE CITY (BP) — Rick Ferguson, pastor of Denver's Riverside Church, will be nominated for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) when messengers gather for the annual meeting in Salt Lake City June 9-11.

Planning to nominate Ferguson for the SBC post is Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, Ark., and a former president of the SBC Pastors' Conference. Ferguson is chairman of the SBC Committee on Order of Business.

An earlier announced nominee for the SBC's first vice presidency is William L. "Bill" Wagner. He is the E. Hermond Westmoreland professor of evangelism at Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and an emeritus Southern Baptist missionary.

Floyd, in a prepared statement May 22, said, "Rick Ferguson pastors one of the greatest Southern Baptist churches in the West. His church not only reaches approximately 2,000 people a week on their campus, with this number growing, but they have also planted 24 satellite churches."

Saying he senses God's leadership to nominate Ferguson, Floyd added, "Southern Baptists need an upcoming leader like Rick Ferguson ... He is a true spiritual champion and a great leader among us."

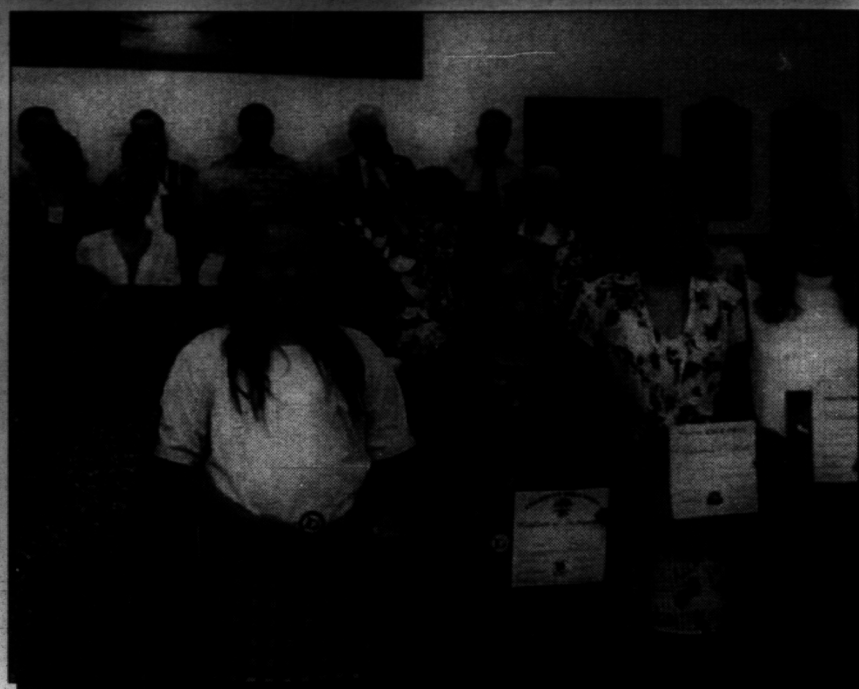
A feature about the multifaceted "Arms Around Denver" church-planting ministries of Riverside Church appeared in the June/July 1997 issue of SBC Life.

Goal exceeded

Walnut Grove Leake Association, exceeded its goal of \$1,800 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering by giving a final total of \$1,855. John H. Pace Jr. is pastor.

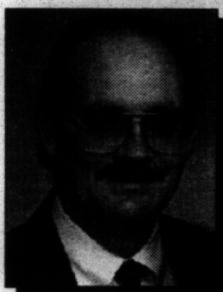


Blythe Creek Church, Choctaw County, recently held a recognition service for its RAs. Pictured are: Jason Oswalt and Todd Lanthrip, leaders; Michael Shurden, Clayton Dodd, Jonathan Lanthrip, and Dustin Winfield, RAs; and Brad Vaughan, flag bearer.



Participants in Bible Drills at Friendship East Church, Charleston, (pictured, from left) were Lauren Lindley, church; Kalen Lindley, state; Tista Wilkinson, state; Brandie Stiles, state; and Dyan Willis, state. Not pictured are Jay Wilkinson and Leah Ivy, church.

STAFF CHANGES



Davis

William L. (Bill) Davis was called as minister of music and education to First Church, Tallulah, La., effective May 1. He and his wife, Linda, are graduates of New Orleans Seminary. His previous places of service include First Church, Aberdeen, and Bay Springs Church, Bay Springs, as well as churches in Georgia, Louisiana, and Florida.

Glade Church, Laurel, has called **Shannon and Melanie McNeill** as ministers of youth effective May 1. They are members of Glade Church.

Parkway Church, Kosciusko, has called **Joe Pate** as pastor. He began his min-

istry effective May 17. His previous place of service was Shuqualak Church, Noxubee Association. He received his education at Andersonville Baptist Seminary.

Centreville Church, Centreville, has called **John Brashier** as pastor. He previously served Wilshire Church, Dallas. Brashier is a native of Jackson and is married to the former Lianne Mangum of Jackson.

Calvary Church, Jackson, has called **Linda Smith** as director of community ministries effective April 1. Smith previously served as a missionary in Hong Kong. She also served First Church, Summit, and First Church, Canton, before going to Hong Kong.



Pine Grove Church, Picayune, recognized its Senior Adults recently during a morning worship service and treated them to a luncheon. "The men and women who are pictured represent many years of service to our church and to God's kingdom," said Scott Cappleman, pastor.

Correction

On page 4 of the May 28, 1998 edition of The Baptist Record, Tony Higginbotham, minister of music at First Church, Louisville, is incorrectly identified as Frank Lewis of Nashville. It was a reporter's error.

MS Positions Available

WARREN/YAZOO BAPTIST ASSOCIATION is accepting applications for the position of Director of Missions. Please send resume to: Warren/Yazoo Baptist Association, 3040 B Indiana Avenue, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER: Send resume to Youth Minister Search Committee, Bissell Baptist Church, 4662 West Main, Tupelo, MS 38801

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WANTED: copies of the "Baptist Hymnal," 1975 Edition; could use 20 or 25 copies. Will pay. Rev. Paul H. Leber, Route 3 Box 238, Philadelphia, MS 39530.

POSITION AVAILABLE: Preschool/Children's Minister, Full-time. Church is located in suburb of Birmingham, AL with average attendance of 550. Send resumes to Personnel Work Team, Westwood Baptist Church, PO Box 1407, Alabaster, AL 35007.

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BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

"Dracula, The Musical?" will be presented nightly except Sundays and Mondays, June 11-27 at William Carey College in Hattiesburg. The second production of the season, "Blame It On The Movies," will be presented July 7-18. Dinner is served at 7 p.m. in the O. L. Quave Theatre, with the performance following. The box office will be open from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. daily except Sunday, and seats may be reserved by calling (601) 582-6221. The admission price of \$17.50 includes dinner and the show.

The William Carey College School of Music will present German classical guitar virtuoso Gerd Wuestemann, recently

named one of the finest young international touring artists, on June 4 at 8 p.m. in Smith Auditorium. Admission is \$5. A Students' Concert will be held June 5 at 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call the school of music at (601) 582-6175.

Mississippi College (MC) recently held its Twelfth Annual Faculty/Staff Recognition Day. John Legg, honored for 35 years of service received an engraved watch. Honorees recognized for 25 years of service received a \$500 Savings Bond. Honorees recognized for 15 years of service were awarded Certificates of Service. (Photos by Jesse Worley — MC)



Honored by MC for 35 years of service was John Legg (left), professor and head, Chemistry Dept. Honored for 25 years of service were Jerry Cannon, professor, Chemistry; Ann M. Weill, reference coordinator, Library; Cheryl Moss, director of cheerleaders; Howell Todd, president; Charles Davis, professor, Christian Studies and Philosophy; Emily Fokeladeh, assistant professor, Foreign Languages.



Honored by MC for 15 years of service were (from left) Mary Jean Padgett, dean of the School of Nursing; Deborah Trott Pierce, associate professor of French; Howell Todd, president; Edward J. Valente, professor, Chemistry; Glenn Worley, Physical Plant; William G. Nettles, associate professor, Physics.



Honored by MC for 15 years of service were (from left) Bill Townsend, assistant dean for Professional Services, School of Law; Tommie H. Carey, Physical Plant; Charles T. Yancy, equipment manager, Athletics; Howell Todd, president; Stephen D. Cook, assistant professor, Art; Clayton J. Jones, Physical Plant.

REVIVAL DATES

Calvary, New Augusta: June 8-10; services, 7 p.m. nightly; Clay Ingram, evangelist.

First of DeLisle, Pass Christian: "Breaking Chains" tent revival; June 14-18; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Bruce Gill, evangelist; Mike and Brandy Nier, music; special guests will include Headin' Home, Three of a Kind, Linda Machi, Gigi Hines, and Mike Ramsey, minister of music at First, DeLisle; Steve Peterman, pastor.

Second, Kosciusko: June 7-11; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 10:30 a.m. and 7

p.m.; Glenn Davis, Sumrall, evangelist; Rachel McKay, Kosciusko, music; Rickey McKay, pastor.

Mt. Carmel, Edinburg: June 7-10; 7 p.m. nightly; James Young, Philadelphia, guest speaker; Evelyn Dodds, music; Keith Fulton, pastor.

Cascilla, Cascilla: June 12-14; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Terry Easleys, evangelist, with the Easleys Evangelistic Team from Terry; David Sapp, pastor.

Glade, Laurel: June 28-July 1; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, Little Rock, evangelist; Currie Page, Glade, music; Mike Thompson, pastor.

Furrs, Pontotoc: June 7-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; David Hamilton, Verona, evangelist; Randy Wood, Verona, music; Walter Simmons, pastor.

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4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for

LIFE AND WORK

Unresolved anger

Gen. 4:2b-8; Eph. 4:26-27, 31; James 1:19-20

By Kevin Hand

God desires for his children to grow into maturity and completeness. Unfortunately, many Christians' spiritual growth is hindered by sins such as unresolved anger, an unforgiving spirit, apathy, and self-centeredness. The four lessons of June will focus on believers' recognizing and overcoming hindrances to their spiritual growth. This week we examine the hindrance of unresolved anger.

Causes of anger (Gen. 4:2b-5). Cain and Abel brought free-will offerings to the Lord. God responded favorably to Abel's offering, but did not receive Cain's offering with favor. Hebrews 11:4 seems to suggest that Abel's faith was the basis of this preference. Because

God rejected Cain's offering, Cain became "very

angry" and "his face was downcast" (v. 5). His hot anger was obvious in his countenance.

While resentment, jealousy, and rejection generated Cain's anger, our anger can have numerous other sources. Part of resolving anger includes identifying its causes. Generally, our anger is the result of feeling that our personal rights have been violated. We excuse our anger because we feel it is justified. We mistakenly think that because someone has hurt us, offended us, maligned us, or taken advantage of us, we deserve to be angry.

Is it ever possible to have a valid, correct anger? Yes. An

example of righteous anger is Jesus' cleansing the temple. His holy indignation was directed against sin and was not vindictive or malicious. Our problem is that we usually become angry over the wrong things.

Caution against anger

(Gen. 4:6-8). God asked Cain the reason he was angry and warned of the serious threat that Cain's anger posed to him. The sin that "crouched" at Cain's door wanted to "have" him (v. 7). This word picture helps us understand that anger is like a predator, poised to ambush and dominate its prey. Despite God's warning, Cain allowed sin to control him, and his unresolved anger built to explosive intensity. He attacked and killed his own brother as a result of uncontrolled anger.

Anger is just one letter short of "danger." In fact, nurtured anger poses severe dangers: it harms a person's relationship

to God, escalates to further sin and violence, affects other people, and adversely impacts the person who is angry. Anger left unchecked will turn into wrath and bitterness. Like Cain, when anger is in our heart, sin is at our door. Therefore, Christians need to control their anger.

Consequences of anger (James 1:19-20). Christians should be slow to become angry because anger is destructive. It destroys families and friendships. Anger also destroys the one harboring anger. Someone once defined anger as "an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is poured."

James points out another consequence of anger: it does not produce the righteous life God wants for his people. Because anger prevents Christians from developing a lifestyle that reflects God's character, they are to resist becoming angry.

Constructive approach to resolving anger (Eph. 4:26-27, 31). Paul's instruction to "not let the sun go down while you are still angry" is a warning to deal with anger quickly. The "anger" (Gk. *orge*, vv. 26, 31, NIV) Paul referred to carries the idea of a settled disposition, while "rage" (Gk. *thumos*, v. 31, NIV) referred to a sudden outburst of temper that flared and quickly subsided. The Greek word translated "angry" in v. 26 (NIV) means a violent irritation expressed by hiding oneself, by angry looks, by harmful words, and by inconsiderate actions.

Paul warns that when believers do not resolve their anger, they give the devil an opportunity to gain a place or foothold in their lives. Therefore, believers are to resolve anger quickly to repel the devil. They are to remove all bitterness, rage, and anger from their lives, and practice kindness, compassion, and forgiveness (vv. 31, 32).

Hand is pastor of First Church, Magee.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

The salvation God provides

1 Peter 1:1-12

By William H. Sims, III

H. H. Hoyer penned these words: "I have an insurance policy written in the blood of the Lamb, sealed by the cross of Jesus, redeemable wherever I am! The company will never go bankrupt, it is bonded by God's promise true; it will keep every word of it's contract, exactly what it says it will do." Salvation, what greater subject for every soul to study.

Introduction (1:1-2) Peter, a chosen apostle, sent words of hope to Christ's chosen people scattered throughout northern Asia Minor. Peter wrote this letter in 63 or 64 A. D. during the reign of Nero, under whose cruel hand Peter eventually suf-

fered martyrdom. In speaking of them as "scattered," Peter used a word referring to Jews who lived out of Palestine. The term "elect" (v. 2) also was used by the Jews in the Old Testament to express the fact that God had selected them as his people. Chosen, refers to something special God has done to and for us. The foreknowledge of God refers to more than God's knowing a fact, it includes the special relationship with his people. God knew they would live as aliens in a hostile setting of Asia Minor. Thus, the Holy Spirit prepares us for service. Sprinkled blood refers to the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ.

Peter denotes in all three members of the Trinity how salvation is made possible. People cannot produce salvation; they can only receive Jesus through faith in God.

Salvation: Made

secure by God's power (1:3-5) In verses 3-5 Peter offered praise to God for the mercy God demonstrated for spiritual birth. Peter affirmed that through the death and resurrection of Jesus we have this regeneration. This resurrection offered invigorating hope. The term "blessed" expresses thanks to God. The "mercy" of God describes his eternal compassion. The expression "hath begotten us again" describes total change in those who have turned to Jesus. The inheritance is eternal life, a life untouched by death, doom or defeat. No one can rob God's people of their salvation. Peter

continued to offer hope by sharing that whatever we face, Jesus will hold us up.

Salvation: That sustains

earthly trials (1:6-9) In this section Peter reminded the readers that they could rejoice even through trials. Trials are only for awhile, and they teach us to totally depend on Jesus. Trials may worsen, but Jesus will never allow his children to be destroyed. We may be knocked down, but not knocked out. Peter shared how through fire our faith in God would endure. God refines us through trials, and we experience a hope that never goes out. When Jesus returns in glory, God will bestow honor on those who have been purified by trials. Even though those believing had not seen Jesus, they loved him. Despite their trials, joy was experienced. The response of those readers allowed them to receive their goal - the salvation of their souls.

Salvation Sought by

prophets (1:10-12) In verses 10-12 Peter indicated that the Old Testament prophets made an intense search to discover the time their words would be fulfilled. The prophets awaited to see the Messiah. The spirit of Christ within these prophets guided them in their search. Peter's readers were enjoying the benefits which the prophets had described. The good news was heralded by prophets; and investigated by angels.

The greatest gift to any soul is hearing the gospel and accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior. Salvation brings joy, life, hope, and an internal inheritance that fadeth not away. As God's people, even through trials, God will grant us his power because we are his children. No trial should rob us of our hope and joy in Jesus.

Sims is pastor of First Church, Pontotoc.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

What makes life worthwhile?

Ecclesiastes 1:1-3; 2:1-4, 10-15; 4:1-3; 12:1, 13-14

By Nancie E. Simmons

As a child I loved to watch the classic movie "The Wizard of Oz." As I think back on this childhood favorite, I see a deeper meaning. Dorothy, the Tin Man, the Scarecrow, and the Cowardly Lion were all searching for something to make them complete and satisfied.

People everyday do the same thing. We skip down "the Yellow Brick Road" of life searching for things to fill the emptiness in our hearts. Many times we already have all the elements needed to fill this void.

In the movie Dorothy's main goal was to get back to Kansas. That was all she wanted to do

and everywhere she went she tried to achieve this goal. We sometimes set goals for ourselves that become all-consuming. We believe if we reach this goal, ourselves, we will find happiness. It is not fulfilling and we always want more.

Solomon stated at the beginning of Ecclesiastes that all the work we do "under the sun" is meaningless and without gain. The words to notice in this passage are "under the sun." We should be seeking God who is "above the sun." He will help us get "home."

The Tin Man wanted a heart so he could feel emotions such as happiness. Many people try

the pleasures of this world that are temporary and are not fulfilling. Sometimes these pleasures get out of our control and rain down on us causing us to "rust."

Solomon tried the pleasures of the world, but he decided that they were meaningless. Pleasures such as wealth,

can never fill our hearts because they are of this world. We should not try to gain riches of this world but try to gain riches for Heaven. Furthermore, a good relationship with God will keep us from "rusting" in our daily walk with him.

Next, the Scarecrow wanted a brain so he would know the answers to many questions. Many people strive to have wisdom. Education is a necessary part of our lives helping us to find out where are talents are. Other people do not care about being wise. They spend

their time doing foolish things.

Solomon decided to seek wisdom. This wisdom did not fulfill him and soon he realized he would receive the same fate as the foolish man. We will all be judged by God no matter if we decide to be wise or foolish. Being wise is doing God's will and I believe it is the best way to appear before the judgment seat of Christ!

Lastly, the Cowardly Lion wanted to have courage. We sometimes strive for power just so we can tell others what to do. Often the loneliest people in the world are those in positions of power. It does not take courage or bravery to intimidate others to gain power.

Solomon felt as though there was no help for either the oppressors or the oppressed. He decided that the best solution for them was death or never even being born so they would never have to experi-

ence the sin of this world. God wants us to have the courage to live our lives according to his will even in a sin-filled world.

When Dorothy, the Tin Man, the Scarecrow, and the Cowardly Lion all reached the Great Oz, they discovered that their trip "over the Yellow Brick Road" was meaningless. The Great Oz was only a little man behind a curtain. We will never have to face disappointment such as this with God.

The characters also discovered that they had the things they were looking for all along. This is true in all of us. God is not "somewhere over the rainbow, way up high." He is there waiting for us to ask him to fill the void in our hearts. We must establish a relationship with God and obey his commandments. This will make our lives worthwhile until we find our way "home."

Simmons teaches music at Harper McCaughan Elementary and is a member of First Church, Gulfport.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Mrs. John B. Easter
Albert Griffin
Mr. & Mrs. Duane Thomas
Ben Griffin
Mr. & Mrs. Paul H. Griffin
Mrs. Mary Grisham
Mr. & Mrs. Howard B. Grubbs
Mr. George Gockert
Mr. & Mrs. Billy D. Moore
Mr. Rufus Gilly
Mrs. Dorothy W. Shaw
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Skipper
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Evans
Ms. Carol Floore
Mr. T. W. Guyton
Mr. & Mrs. Allen H. Mapp Jr.
Mrs. Shula S. Haley
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Champion
Mrs. Ruby Halford
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Carter
Syble Hall
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Edwards Jr.
Dolph Hammett
Ms. Dorothy Lever
Keith Hardy
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs
Mrs. Mary Y. Womack
Mrs. Glenda Faye Hardy
Mr. & Mrs. James N. Covington
Glenda Ruth Hargrove
Ms. Shirley S. Keith
Mr. Jack P. Harper

Mr. & Mrs. George S. Cronia
Jimmie Harris
Ms. Mary Edna Ming
Mrs. Horace (Sybil Westbrook) Harris
Dr. & Mrs. Joe Ivy Gillespie
Mr. Palmer Harrison
Mr. & Mrs. R. R. Wolfe



Stephanie, an 8th grader and resident at the Farrow Manor campus in Independence, has been selected as a varsity cheerleader at Independence High School for the 1998-99 school year.

Uriel Hendrix
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh E. Linder
Dr. & Mrs. C. E. Holland
Mr. & Mrs. C. F. Wadsworth

Mrs. Lois Hollomon
Mr. & Mrs. Billy J. Skelton
Mrs. Holmes (Mother of Mike Manning)
Mrs. Libby Patterson
Mr. Earl Hubbard
Mr. & Mrs. James L. Travis
Gail Christie Hubert



Jay, a freshman at Northwest Community College and resident of the Farrow Manor campus, visits with friends at Mt. Zion Baptist Church on Easter Sunday morning.

Mrs. Mavis Hudson
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Lucas
Raymond Iverson
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Tadlock
Les Jacob
Herman, Sharon & Christopher Coats
Mr. W. H. "Pete" James
Spring Hill Baptist Church
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel R. Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Daughdrill
Mr. & Mrs. F. M. Robert & Family
Mrs. F. L. James
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Robert & Family
Ms. Ruby Chadwick
Marcene, Bob & Brenda Foster
Lloyd Jennings
Mr. & Mrs. Billy J. Skelton
Gerald Johnson
Patricia Ball Library Director
Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. Perkins
Library Board Trustees
Mr. Grady L. Vance
Lewis H. Johnson
Ms. Oma Dell Lupo
Mr. John Henry Johnson
Mrs. Marcene Foster
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Furlow
Mrs. F. L. James
Spring Hill Baptist Church
Mrs. Ruth Vesey Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. George H. Crawford Jr.
Elsie I. Johnston
Mrs. F. R. Clark
Betty Jones
Adult Ladies S North Carrollton BC
Mrs. James B. Williams Jr.
Sara Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Sprayberry
Susan Jordan
Mrs. Don Woodruff
G. P. & Leona Keahey
Mr. & Mrs. Albert E. Keahey
Mr. Sanford Keith
Nora & Virginia Langford
Mr. Louis Kelly
Mr. & Mrs. Paul E. Speake
Mr. Tom Ketchum
Fellowship SSC Ingomar BC
Mrs. Rosie Kimbrell
Janice Methvin
Mr. & Mrs. James Paul Robinson
Mrs. Marguerite Ratliff Kirby
Mr. & Mrs. L. T. Wade Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mr. & Mrs. D. S. Bowering
Mrs. Patricia "Patsy" Denson Kirby
Mr. John H. Bethune Jr.
Mrs. Doris D. Burtchett
Ms. Mary Horowitz
Music Ministry Morrison Heights BC
Mary Frank Kirkpatrick
Annie Pearl & Patricia Triplett
Mrs. Sammie Lang
Bunker Hill Baptist Church
Mary B. Langham
Mr. & Mrs. Lamar E. Arthur
Mrs. Fred (Mary) Langham
Cornelia McCulley
Ms. Dorothy Pitts
Miss Mildred L. Perkins
V. J. Langlois
Mr. & Mrs. Garry Randall
Mrs. Francis Lauderdale
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Davis
Mrs. Lorene Lewis
Mrs. J. Wesley Miller
Mrs. Mary Lewis
Dr. & Mrs. Hugh L. Poole
Theda Lindsey
Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Beville
Mary Lee Young Link
Tinsley Baptist Church
Chris Lloyd
Mr. & Mrs. David Furr
Mrs. C. A. Hardin
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Mrs. Thomas G. Keith
Charlie, Polly & Beth Morrow
Roy & Terri Schilling
Mrs. Don Schilling
Christopher Allen Lloyd
Mrs. Jack Newton

Mr. & Mrs. F. R. Boykin
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Bruton
Mr. & Mrs. John Corder
Ms. Johnnie Mae Hall
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Lynk & Margaret
Mrs. Garnett B. Lockley
Pastor & Mrs. Keith Knoff
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Howard Jr.
Ms. Mazie G. Lever
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford R. Redding
The Review Club
Mr. & Mrs. T. N. Templeton
Dorothy Maxwell Loftin
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry L. Loftin
Mrs. J.D. Dot Lott
Mr. H. C. Clearman
Mary Ann Regan
Mr. & Mrs. Freddy Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Wilson
Mary Lou Lott & Ann Lott Denton
Chris Loyd
Mrs. Claudia Cage
Troy E. Luna
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs
James Clark Mabus, II
Mr. & Mrs. James Criswell Jr.
Mrs. Ersie Manning
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby L. Kirk
Miss Melissa Martin
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Smith
Mrs. H.D. Massey
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Thomas
Jeanne Mayer
Mr. & Mrs. Wilton W. Nolan
Mrs. Gusta McCulloch
Mr. & Mrs. Chester N. Herrington
Mr. Joe McDonald
Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur C. Shell
Fannie McElwath
Mrs. Kathryn Embry
Mrs. Alma McGehee
Darlene Nations, Kenny Jr & Family
Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Newman Sr.
Braxton McKinley
Mrs. Annette M. Fortenberry
Emma McNeil
Mrs. Don Woodruff
Cynthia McQueen
Mr. & Mrs. Johnny M. Fox
Mrs. Ludie Mae Melton
Graeber Brothers, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. David White & Matthew
Gladys Mills
Lynn, Robert, Brooks & Candace King
Jamie Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Warren
D. A. Moore
Mr. & Mrs. T. A. Waits
Hazel J. Morton
Mrs. Lynn S. Ware
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sauls
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph L. Carroll
Mr. A. Moseley
Mary Ann Regan
Mr. & Mrs. Freddy Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Wilson
Erica Mullins
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges
Mrs. Evie Mullins
Mr. & Mrs. Donald K. Robbins
Scott Napier
Mrs. Kay Collums Davenport
J. B. Nelson
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Warren
Lula Nichols
Wade & Lovie McGlothlin
Mr. John O'Gwynn
Mr. W. D. Gordon
Robert Earl Ott
Mr. Dudley Williamson
Mrs. Mary Ruth Overby
Mr. & Mrs. J. Richard Young Jr.
Rose Owen
Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Carpenter
Mrs. Bernice Palmer
Catherine McNeill
Mr. & Mrs. E. O. VanDevender
Audrey Parrish
Ms. Margaret C. Sims

Trinity Baptist Church, Fulton, hosted a weekend of fellowship and recreation for the Farrow Manor campus. The BCV residents joined Trinity in their morning worship service.



Joshua, age 10, enjoys his visit to Trinity Baptist Church.



(L-R) David Aultman, Larry Brown, Brotherhood director, and Ed Nixon, area administrator for The Baptist Children's Village North Mississippi Campuses, enjoy good coffee and conversation.

Indonesia violence stops; future uncertain

JAKARTA, Indonesia (ABP) — The resignation of Indonesia's president ended a week of rioting in the world's fourth-largest nation, but observers adopted a wait-and-see attitude about whether a new leader will bring stability and how leadership changes will affect a large Christian minority in the predominantly Muslim land.



Parks said individual missionary families were allowed to decide for themselves whether to leave or stay. "CBF personnel assigned to the unreached people groups in this nation value your prayers for them and appeal for prayers for this nation and her people," said Parks, who served as a missionary in Indonesia from 1954 to 1968.

Other missions organizations took similar precautions, according to Evangelical Press. New Tribes Missions evacuated all missionaries from the capital city of Jakarta into other parts of Indonesia, while some Church Missionary Society workers chose to remain in Indonesia despite the turmoil.

Widespread celebration followed Indonesian President Suharto's May 21 resignation, ending 32 years of autocratic rule.

The nation's problems are far from over, however, observers say. Under opposition pressure, new president B.J. Habibie pledged to hold elections "as soon as possible," rather than attempting to serve out the remaining five years of Suharto's term.

A longtime member of Suharto's regime, Habibie is "of the same mind set" as the former president, Parks said. One observer described Habibie as a staunch Muslim and "not at all pro-Christian."

One worker in Indonesia said reaction to Habibie's presidency was mixed. One missions organization issued its highest alert on hearing about the new president while another lowered its alert status one level, said the missionary, who asked that neither he nor the tribal group he works with be identified.

The worker said there is a strong movement to make Indonesia a religious state, which would hinder work among Christians.

About 10% of Indonesia's 200 million citizens are Christians. While past riots have targeted churches, recent violence was aimed at ethnic Chinese, who comprise about 5% of the population but own 70% of the nation's wealth.

Still, religious fervor fueled the violence as Muslim rioters shouted "Allah is great" while looting and burning shopping malls, restaurants, and banks, one witness reported.

The rioters believed God was honored by their attack on Chinese scapegoats, many of whom are Christians, Evangelical Press quoted a source as saying.

The riots were sparked by austerity measures taken by the Suharto government and the May 12 killing of six university students by police.

Officials say more than 500 people died in a looting and arson spree. At least 56 have been reported missing, according to Associated Press.

Randy Sprinkle, intercessory prayer leader for the Southern Baptist IMB, urged Baptists to "ask God to use this crisis to help people realize their spiritual emptiness and pray that believers would not be intimidated but instead would boldly witness to their neighbors and friends about their need for Christ."

Baptist Press reported May 18 that Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) personnel were considering whether to evacuate and that two or three families were scheduled to leave May 15. A spokesman said May 27 that no new information was available on workers representing the SBC's International Mission Board (IMB) in Indonesia.

"A little over half" of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's (CBF) personnel assigned to Indonesia left the country during recent violent demonstrations and looting, said Keith Parks, global-missions coordinator for the Atlanta-based organization.

O'Brien Award announced at WMU Founder's Day

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — The formation of the Dellanna West O'Brien Award for Women's Leadership Development was announced May 8 during a Founder's Day celebration at Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) national headquarters in Birmingham, Ala.

The announcement was made by June Whitlow, WMU senior associate executive director, on behalf of the WMU executive board and WMU Foundation.

The award will be underwritten by an endowed fund, which is managed by the WMU Foundation. The fund currently stands at nearly \$24,000.

The announcement came during the celebration of WMU's 110th anniversary and in anticipation of O'Brien's 10th anniversary as executive director of WMU.

WMU was organized in May 1888, and O'Brien took the helm of the national organization in 1989. WMU will award the first award in 1999.

The new award, to be given annually, will recognize Baptist women who demonstrate the ability to foster leadership in other women and who display the potential to be leaders in their community and the world.

The award will carry a grant to help the recipients continue

their personal development and ministry to others.

The size of each grant will be determined by earnings on the endowed fund.

Leadership development in women is one of O'Brien's passions. It was that passion that led to the creation of the Christian Women's Job Corps, a ministry of Woman's Missionary Union. CWJC is designed to help women living in poverty move from dependency to self-sufficiency.

In announcing the new award, Whitlow read a letter from Darold Morgan, chair of the WMU Foundation board of trustees.

In the letter, Morgan said O'Brien "has served with distinction and integrity during perilous years. Her innovative ideas have energized participation in missions education."

O'Brien, who was surprised by the announcement, expressed her deep appreciation to all who had contributed to the fund.

"You could not have done anything more pleasing to me than to help fund this award," she said.

Information may be obtained by writing the WMU Foundation at the above address; calling (205) 408-5525; or by e-mail at wmufoundation@WMU.org.



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

When I see a certain church leader, I have vague flashbacks that something happened between him and me when I was very young. How can I find out what's going on in my head?

The issues you are confronting may turn out to be very difficult and cannot be thoroughly addressed in this column. Therefore, you should seek Christian counseling to help sort out these memories.

Because your memories are understandably vague, counseling can help ensure that you are recalling the right person and not just the image of someone who seemed to you at the time to be a leader. That's not to imply your memories are invalid. Taking time to discover the truth behind these memories will give you freedom to move on, and may also help avoid an unnecessary or embarrassing confrontation.

You should not minimize feelings that are very real to you. Begin Christian counseling, and study 2 Cor. 10:5. Pray that you will be able to take every thought captive in order to make it obedient to Christ. Test your thoughts and

turn them over to God, who can reveal the truth and dissolve the anxieties in your world.

My ten-year-old seems to steal for the thrill of it. How do I deal with this problem?

Such misbehavior in children is a cry for attention. A good question to ask yourself is, "Why is this happening now?" Closely observe your child to understand what is happening in his life — at home and school, with friends, what he's watching on television, who he wants to impress, the items he steals, what he's doing with the stolen items, and so on.

Spend time with your child. In these prepubescent years, he may be thrilled with stealing and not understand why. He may be exploring just how far he can go or how much he can get away with. Your child is calling out to you. Step into his world and find out what's going on. Don't rant and rave; consistent prayer and a calm approach to this problem can lead to a deeper relationship between the two of you.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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FD LAKT PU RCZP LAML
PU XZIU LAU HAKXJYUC
ZV BZJ, PAUC PU XZIU
BZJ, MCJ RUUW AKT
HZGGMCJGUCLT.

VKYTL QZAC VKIU: LPZ

Clue: B=G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: First Peter Two Twenty.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.